

## COURSE REPORT

### Forest Landscape Restoration

(Delivered in French)

September 21 to November 8, 2020

An online course organized by:

Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**Background:** Forest landscape restoration (FLR) provides an opportunity to transform large areas of degraded and deforested land into landscapes that produce numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits. Many countries have made commitments to restore millions of hectares of degraded and deforested land under the Bonn Challenge, which is an international effort to restore 150 million hectares around the globe by 2020 and 350 million by 2030. Achieving these commitments, however, requires that decision-makers address the diverse ecological, socio-political, and economic factors that impact restoration efforts at different scales. Understanding the ecological processes that relate to forest functioning and the socio-political context of restoration implementation can guide decision-making and the development of strategies for effective forest restoration and sustainable land management.



Live session presentation with guest expert Marius Ekué (CGIAR) on the importance of genetic diversity for landscape restoration.

ELTI is an initiative of the Yale School of the Environment and was created with generous support from Arcadia, a charitable fund of Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing ([www.arcadiafund.org.uk](http://www.arcadiafund.org.uk)).

This online course, delivered in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was designed to provide restoration practitioners and decision-makers in Africa with a holistic understanding of ecological and social fundamentals and FLR in practice, to enable them to develop and implement locally-adapted restoration approaches in their own landscapes.

**Course objectives:**

- Provide the knowledge to evaluate and compare an array of forest landscape restoration methodologies and how the biophysical and socioeconomic conditions of a site influence the decision-making about which strategies to utilize;
- Provide guidance on stakeholder engagement and how to analyze the enabling conditions that are needed to successfully implement FLR and scaling up;
- Present information, an overview and case studies of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), associated tools and finance strategies in order to develop a strategic plan for FLR;
- Allow participants to analyze the ecological conditions, disturbance history, sociopolitical factors, and monitoring plans in order to plan for FLR in a specific region or area; and
- Provide the opportunity for participants to engage in critical discussion on a weekly basis and connect with a global network of practitioners working on FLR.

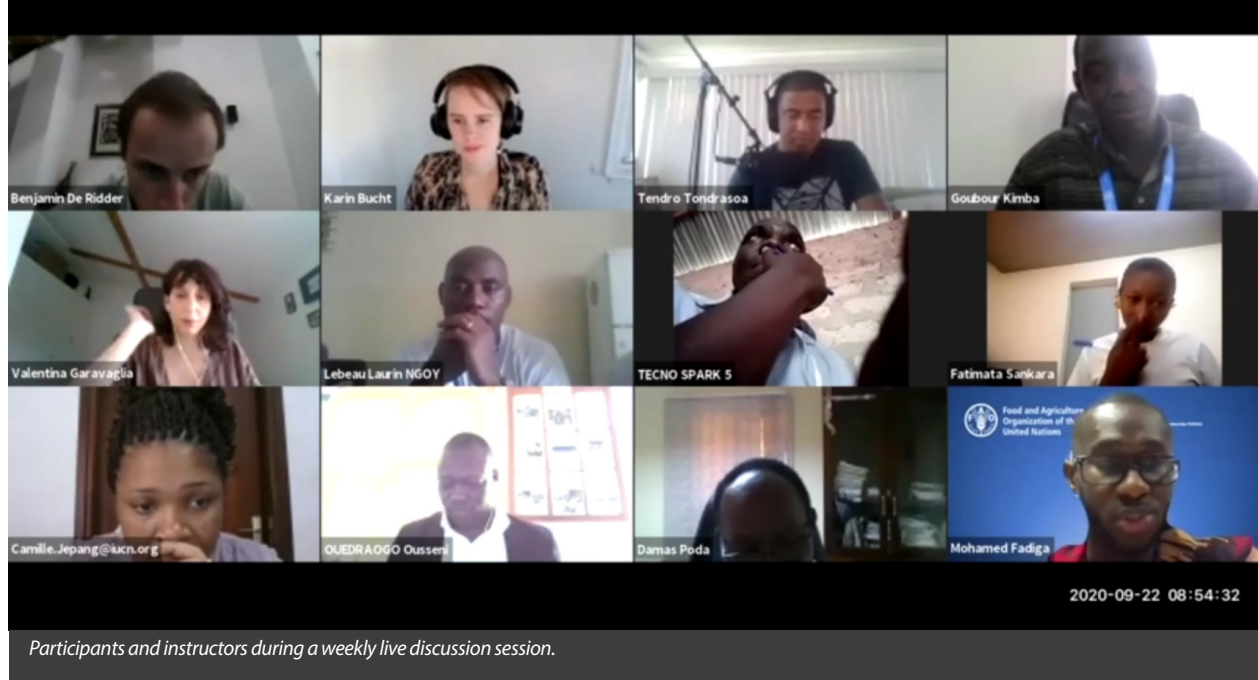
**Course structure:** During this seven week course, participants accessed educational content (video lectures, case studies, readings, and interactive presentations), participated in live discussion sessions, and submitted weekly assignments. The course was divided into the following thematic modules:

- Module 1.** Introduction to ecology, disturbance, and regeneration potential
- Module 2.** Socio-cultural and political aspects of restoration
- Module 3.** FLR practices and strategies
- Module 4.** Integrating FLR and production activities
- Module 5.** ROAM and M&E of restoration projects
- Module 6.** Financing for scaling up of FLR
- Module 7.** Course wrap-up

The course activities supported participants to develop an landscape restoration plan and apply what they learned in the course to their own work on FLR. Participants also exchanged experiences and shared concepts and tools with each other, the ELTI facilitators, and guest experts.

	SEMAINE 1 <b><u>Introduction à l'écologie, perturbation, et potentiel de régénération</u></b> 21 - 27 Septembre
	SEMAINE 2 <b><u>Aspects socio-culturels et politiques de la restauration</u></b> 28 Septembre - 4 Octobre
	SEMAINE 3 <b><u>Pratiques et stratégies de RPF</u></b> 5 - 11 Octobre
	SEMAINE 4 <b><u>Intégration de RPF et des fins productives</u></b> 12 - 18 Octobre
	SEMAINE 5 <b><u>MEOR et le suivi des projets de restauration</u></b> 19 - 25 Octobre
	SEMAINE 6 <b><u>Financement pour l'intensification de la RPF</u></b> 26 Octobre 26 - 1 Novembre
	SEMAINE 7 <b><u>Clôture et achèvement des projets</u></b> 2-8 Novembre

*View of the online platform where participants accessed the course materials.*



At the end of the course, participants who finished all course requirements received a certificate of completion.

**Participants:** This course was offered to 26 environmental professionals working throughout Africa. Participants represented nine countries and various institutions, including FAO and local environmental ministries.

**Instruction team:** Dr. Tendro Tondrasoa Ramaharitra (Ph.D.) served as lead instructor and Karin Bucht (Africa and Blended Training Programs Coordinator, ELTI) facilitated the course delivery. Benjamin DeRidder (FAO), Marius Ekué (CGIAR), Pedro Regato (freelance consultant), Dominique Endamana (IUCN), Christophe Besacier (FAO), and Mathilde Iweins (FAO) served as guest experts during the weekly live sessions. Additionally, more than 20 international speakers presented theory and case studies in pre-recorded lectures delivered during the course modules.

**Outcomes and follow-up:** Many of the participants were actively engaged throughout the course and benefited from the feedback they received from the instructors and their peers. Through the course, participants developed 12 unique landscape restoration plans focused on seven countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Morocco, and Niger). Participants rated their learning experience in the course as 4.5 (out of 5), with many expressing interest in further training on related themes.

**For more information:** Contact Karin Bucht, ELTI Africa and Blended Training Program Coordinator ([karin.bucht@yale.edu](mailto:karin.bucht@yale.edu))

*This event was possible thanks to Arcadia, whose Environmental Conservation grants support programmes that protect and enhance biodiversity, and provide field training and academic research.*